

Canadian Sheep Federation Executive Director's Report October 2021

Action Items from the October 2021 Board meeting	1
Program Updates.....	1
Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) and Traceability	1
AgroLedger.....	2
Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP).....	2
National Maedi Visna Program.....	2
Canada's Small Ruminant Ultrasound Pregnancy Assessment Training and Certification Program.....	3
Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program (CWD HCP).....	3
Industry Initiatives.....	4
This month's meetings.....	4
Sheep Supply	6

Action Items from the October 2021 Board meeting

- The CSF submitted a proposal to the Agricultural Climate Solutions On-farm Climate Action Fund.
- The CSF submitted comments to the USDA's *Labeling of Meat or Poultry Products Comprised of or Containing Cultured Animal Proteins* consultation.
- The CSF appointed Harry Elsinga as representative to the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council's National Workforce Strategy Consortium.

Program Updates

Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) and Traceability

- Allflex is proposing changes to its CSIP tag that could reduce the width and weight of the tag. The changes are significant enough that they will require a tag trial, provided the proposed changes first pass lab testing.
- September marked the launch of the CSF's project with the University of Toronto's Institute for Multidisciplinary Design &

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Innovation, part of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. The project will explore innovative technologies aimed at making real-time traceability data collection easier while improving data integrity. A secondary project deliverable is a real-time animal welfare assessment tool whose potential uses include humane transportation research. This project will take place through the academic year with final report expected by March 27, 2022, and a design showcase April 7, 2022.

AgroLedger

- The CSF provided an AgroLedger demonstration to the CFIA's Animal Health Directorate and traceability teams, highlighting AgroLedger's capacity to meet traceability reporting needs as well as exploring some of the value-added functionality of the system.
- The CSF is working with the University of Toronto's Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering to develop a facial recognition tool using AI (Artificial Intelligence) that can uniquely identify sheep and measure the change in facial expression to assess welfare in real-time. The technology design will focus on two primary functions and two secondary functions in order to address the existing gap of labour-intensive, time-consuming, and expensive sheep traceability and welfare assessment methods. These functions will be based on applying AI facial recognition techniques.
 - Primary Functions
 - Automated unique identification of sheep in real-time
 - Welfare assessment of sheep in real-time via the grimace scale
 - Secondary Functions
 - To enable ease of access of the technology
 - To traceback, monitor, and control the spread of disease
 - Lessen the stress during transportation of sheep
 - Unintended Functions
 - To be able to use the same technology on other species of animals for unique identification and welfare assessment.

The project plan proposes that design work is complete by the end of the calendar year, testing and adjustments take place in January 2022 and the final project report and engineering portfolio is ready by mid-April. The technology will be unveiled at the faculty's design showcase in March.

Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP)

The CFIA made the CSF aware of potential changes to small ruminant import policy, Option 2b for males, where the SFCP is implicated. This option is used primarily by goat producers to import bucks. The option prohibits the movement of bucks off the importing premises without a permit, which is becoming increasingly difficult for CFIA to monitor and enforce. This option could be removed within a year's time.

National Maedi Visna Program

- The CSF re-invigorated its National Maedi Visna Working Group, with support from the Canadian Sheep Breeders Association and Canadian National Goat Federation, to pick up with work plans last considered in late 2018. The Working Group met first in early October and will expand

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its membership to include additional veterinarians. From the last workplan, the WG expects to focus on establishing testing, biosecurity and status assessment protocols, evaluate testing methodologies and standardize testing costs, and propose a future program administration framework.

Canada's Small Ruminant Ultrasound Pregnancy Assessment Training and Certification Program

- Canada's small ruminant industries have finalized their Ultrasound Pregnancy Assessment Certification program, which offers two program 'pathways'...Trained and Certified.
 - The Trained pathway requires completion of the theory training unit as outlined below with the option of completing the practical training unit. The practical training unit is not required to be deemed Trained. This pathway is intended for those who's goal is to perform their own on-farm pregnancy ultrasound assessments. Trained individuals who wish to upgrade their program status to Certified will need to demonstrate practical training or experience equivalent to that required of Certified individuals and will be required to successfully complete the examination process outlined in the program's documentation.
 - The *Certified* pathway requires completion of the theory and practical training units as outlined below, as well as an examination to evaluate skill level. This pathway is intended for those who wish to provide commercial ultrasound pregnancy assessment services. *Certified* technicians endorsed by the SRUOC are deemed to be proficient in conducting pregnancy ultrasound assessments in keeping with the expectations of Canada's small ruminant industries. *Certified* program status does not necessarily confer the right to practice.
- In a 2020 position statement, the Canadian Sheep Federation asserted that pregnancy in small ruminants is not an illness needing to be diagnosed but part of the continuous cycle of normal farm practices that allows farms to be productive and profitable. Knowing whether a ewe or doe is pregnant or open is increasingly important to flock/herd management and access to accurate and affordable trans-abdominal ultrasound is becoming an important management tool for making that assessment. Trans-abdominal ultrasound scanning is a safe, humane and non-invasive process for providing pregnancy assessments. It is important that anyone involved in providing a pregnancy assessment service in small ruminants be fully trained and competent in the use of fully functioning, well maintained equipment and be certified by a national, industry led certifying body. It is important that farm operators have confidence in the abilities, accuracy and affordability of independent technicians, veterinarian technicians and/or veterinarians performing pregnancy assessments. The Canadian Sheep Federation's position is that trans-abdominal ultrasound assessments may be performed by any trained and competent individual regardless of professional designation.

Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program (CWD HCP)

- The annual Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program National Standards Review that took place through the spring, led to the release of a first draft of the amended National Standards this summer. The 2021 National Standards will come into force December 31, 2021, accompanied by updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and program forms.

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- CWD HCP enrolled producers are reminded that they are required to submit an annual application for advancement within 3 months of their anniversary quarter as indicated on program certificates. Annual applications must include an inventory report completed by the appropriate party and ALL program forms, submitted every year.

Industry Initiatives

- The Canadian Sheep Federation submitted a project proposal to the Agriculture Climate Solutions On-Farm Climate Action Fund in response to the Call for Proposals. Proposals are to be for projects that show high potential for early action in reducing net GHG emissions while also providing environmental co-benefits, such as improved soil health. Funded projects will financially support farmers in adopting best management practices (BMPs) in improving nitrogen management, increasing adoption of cover cropping and normalizing rotational grazing practices. Eligible costs incurred by farmers will be cost-shared. The CSF project proposes providing learning opportunities and technical support to producers interested in adopting key BMPs, with a longer-term goal (beyond the scope of the ACS-OFCAF funding) of having the program recognized as a federal GHG offset program that will allow producers to monetize carbon sequestration as carbon offset credits, selling credits to industries that need to offset their excess GHG emissions.
- The CSF had the opportunity to attend this year's Beef Value Chain Roundtable as they explored 'everything carbon'. Presentations took a deep dive into the science of carbon sequestration, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon trading programs.

This month's meetings

- University of Toronto Capstone Team X 2
- Gabrielle Crumley Marketing
- CSF Board of Directors X 2
- National Maedi Visna Working Group X 2
- Canadian Livestock Transport Advisory Board
- Creative Value Consulting
- Thrive EU
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Animal Health Directorate and Trace team
- Animal Health Canada Governance Committee
- University of Calgary
- CAHSS Vector Borne Disease Network
- CgFARAD Advisory Board
- Animal Health Canada Working Group
- Beef Value Chain Round Table

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- FAO – Global Animal Disease Information System
- CSF Audit & Finance Committee
- Centre for Food Integrity
- NFAHWC Forum
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Scrapie Flock Certification Program
- Market Access Secretariat
- National Farm Animal Care Council

Sheep Supply



SHEEP SUPPLY CANADA

July 2021

Fed. & Prov. Slaughter (head)			
preliminary	2021	2020	% chg
YTD			
B.C./Alta/Sask./Man.	74,427	75,497	-1.4
Ontario	161,150	166,148	-3.0
Quebec - Atlantic *	76,474	77,379	-1.2
Canada	312,051	319,024	-2.2
Federal Slaughter			
Monthly			
West - Ontario	7,613	6,344	20.0
Quebec - Atlantic	5,661	4,308	31.4
West - Ontario YTD	49,704	51,781	-4.0
Quebec - Atlantic YTD	29,898	29,835	0.2
Provincial Slaughter			
preliminary			
Monthly			
West - Ontario	36,843	38,249	-3.7
Quebec - Atlantic *	8,374	8,138	2.9
West - Ontario YTD	185,873	189,864	-2.1
Quebec - Atlantic YTD *	46,576	47,544	-2.0

Source: CFIA, Provincial Governments *2021 July Provincial estimate

Imports			
(Number of head from U.S.)	Year to Date July		
Pure-bred & Non Pure-bred	2021	2020	% chg
East	100	5	-
West	13,578	4	-
Total	13,678	9	-

Source: Statistics Canada

Mutton & Lamb			
(Metric Tonnes)	Year to Date July		
	2021	2020	% chg
New Zealand	5,589	5,060	10.5
Australia	5,482	6,236	-12.1
Other	1,254	1,376	-8.8
Total	12,326	12,671	-2.7

Source: Statistics Canada

UNITED STATES

Total Sheep and Lambs			
	Year to Date July		
	2021	2020	% chg
Slaughter ('000 head)	1,123	1,100	2.1
Avg Dressed Wt (lbs)	62	65	-4.6
Avg Dressed Wt (Kg)	28	29	-4.6
Lamb/Mutton (mil lbs)	73	75	-2.7
Lamb/Mutton (tonnes)	33,067	33,974	-2.7

Source: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

U.S. Lamb & Mutton Exports (Metric Tonnes)			
	Year to Date July		
	2021	2020	% chg
Mexico	233	204	13.9
Bermuda	65	57	13.9
Bahamas	63	74	-14.2
Trinidad and Tobago	37	34	10.0
Dominican Republic	35	11	-
Netherlands Antilles	34	14	-
Canada	32	32	-1.7
Other	164	306	-46.5
Total	663	732	-9.5

Source: Global Trade Tracker

Monthly Prices			
Ontario Auctions	2021	2020	% chg
Lambs			
< 65 lbs, new crop	290.51	287.37	1.1
65-79 lbs	282.50	284.13	-0.6
80-94 lbs	282.86	273.35	3.5
95-109 lbs	274.46	265.92	3.2
Sheep	178.05	174.81	1.9
Quebec Auctions	2021	2020	
Lambs			
< 65 lbs, new crop	261.21	270.80	-3.5
65-79 lbs	305.48	295.99	3.2
Sheep - Ewes	170.67	157.21	8.6
Sheep - Ram	210.24	218.92	-4.0
LEOQ		2021	
Quebec Heavy Lambs			
May 9 2021 to June 19 2021		14.45	
June 20 2021 to July 31 2021		12.83	
August 1 2021 to September 19 2021		11.25	

Source: Beef Farmer's of Ontario, Quebec Electronic Auctions and Les Éleveurs d'Ovins du Québec

Exports			
(Number of head)	Year to Date July		
Total Live Sheep	2021	2020	% chg
United States	2,973	7,827	-
Other	0	0	-
Total	2,973	7,827	-

Source: Statistics Canada

Mutton & Lamb			
(Metric Tonnes)	Year to Date July		
	2021	2020	% chg
United States	37.5	38.2	-2.0
New Zealand	17.3	0.0	-
United Arab Emirates	13.7	11.8	15.6
Other	13.7	12.3	11.3
Total	82.2	62.4	31.8

Source: Statistics Canada

U.S. Price Summary			
San Angelo Auction	July		
Choice and Prime 1-2	2021	2020	
	U.S. \$/cwt		
	average	average	
-69 lbs	283.38	212.06	
70-79 lbs	273.15	195.09	
80-89 lbs	271.48	184.58	
90+ lbs	256.07	175.06	

Includes woolled and hair breeds

Note: Monthly price averages are calculated off of daily/weekly price reporting

U.S. Lamb & Mutton Imports (Metric Tonnes)			
	Year to Date July		
	2021	2020	% chg
Australia	59,669	63,704	-6.3
New Zealand	17,893	13,323	34.3
Chile	1,181	637	85.2
Uruguay	128	207	-38.2
Mexico	73	53	38.2
Other	37	39	-3.6
Total	78,980	77,963	1.3

Source: Global Trade Tracker